

Welcome!



**The Word
became flesh
and lived
among us**

JOHN 1:14

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

101 N. Greenwood Street, Tamaqua, PA 18252
(570) 668-2180 - Email: zionlcof@verizon.net

Our Mission: Empowered and Inspired by God to bring others to Christ.

The Second Sunday of Christmas

January 4, 2026 ~ 9:00 am

The Liturgy of Word and Sacrament

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

**Congregation please stand*

The Pre-service Music

~ The Gathering ~

* The Confession and Forgiveness

BLESSED BE THE HOLY TRINITY, ✚ ONE GOD, WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY SAVIOR, PRINCE OF PEACE.

Amen.

TRUSTING IN GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS, LET US CONFESS OUR SIN.

Please kneel if able.

RECONCILING GOD,

we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

GOD'S GRACE UPON GRACE FLOWS OVER YOU. ✚ CHRIST'S PRESENCE REDEEMS THE WHOLE CREATION. YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN. LET THE EARTH REJOICE AND BE GLAD!

Amen.

* The Gathering Hymn

"The Bells of Christmas"

No. 62 Stanzas 1,2,3,4

* The Greeting

CHRIST IS BORN: ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE COMMUNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BE WITH YOU ALL.

And also with you.

* The Kyrie Eleison *(music on page 57 of LBW)*

IN PEACE, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

(Sung) **Lord, have mercy.**

FOR THE PEACE FROM ABOVE, AND FOR OUR SALVATION, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

Lord, have mercy.

FOR THE PEACE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE CHURCH OF GOD, AND FOR THE UNITY OF ALL, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

Lord, have mercy.

FOR THIS HOLY HOUSE, AND FOR ALL WHO OFFER HERE THEIR WORSHIP AND PRAISE, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

Lord, have mercy.

HELP, SAVE, COMFORT, AND DEFEND US, GRACIOUS LORD.

Amen.

*** The Hymn of Praise** *(music on page 58 of LBW)*

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND PEACE TO HIS PEOPLE ON EARTH.

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*** The Prayer of the Day**

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

(Sung) **And also with you.**

LET US PRAY:

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

~The Word~

The First Lesson Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

(After the reading)

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm 147:12-20 Tune "*Joy to the World*" No.39

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King.

PRAISE THE LORD, O JERUSALEM! PRAISE YOUR GOD, O ZION! HE KEEPS YOUR GATES STRONG; HE BLESSES YOUR PEOPLE. HE KEEPS YOUR BORDERS SAFE AND SATISFIES YOU WITH THE FINEST WHEAT.

**Let ev'ry heart prepare him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

HE GIVES A COMMAND TO THE EARTH, AND WHAT HE SAYS IS QUICKLY DONE.

No more let sin and sorrow grow Nor thorns infest the ground.

HE SPREADS SNOW LIKE A BLANKET AND SCATTERS FROST LIKE DUST. HE SENDS HAIL LIKE GRAVEL; NO ONE CAN ENDURE THE COLD HE SENDS.

He comes to make his blessings flow

THEN HE GIVES A COMMAND, AND THE ICE MELTS; HE SENDS THE WIND, AND THE WATER FLOWS.

**Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

HE GIVES HIS MESSAGE TO HIS PEOPLE, HIS INSTRUCTIONS AND LAWS TO ISRAEL. HE HAS NOT DONE THIS FOR OTHER NATIONS; THEY DO NOT KNOW HIS LAWS.

**He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love.**

The Second Lesson Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

(After the reading)

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Thanks be to God.

*** The Gospel Acclamation** *(Alleluia Verse LWB p. 62)*

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*** The Holy Gospel St. John 1:1-18**

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

(Before the Gospel)

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN THE 1ST CHAPTER:

(Sung) **Glory to you, O Lord.**

(After the Gospel)

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

(Sung) **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

Pastor Cindy White

***The Hymn of the Day**

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

No. 50

The Rite of Installation

HAVING BEEN ELECTED BY THE CONGREGATION TO POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP, NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO COME FORWARD.

ST. PAUL WRITES: THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS, BUT THE SAME SPIRIT GIVES THEM. THERE ARE DIFFERENT WAYS OF SERVING, BUT THE SAME LORD IS SERVED. THERE ARE DIFFERENT ABILITIES TO PERFORM SERVICE, BUT THE SAME GOD GIVES EVERYONE ABILITY FOR PARTICULAR SERVICE. THE SPIRIT'S PRESENCE IS SHOWN IN SOME WAY IN EACH PERSON, FOR THE GOOD OF ALL.

YOU HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP AND TRUST IN THIS CONGREGATION. YOU ARE TO SEE THAT THE WORDS AND DEEDS OF THIS HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH REFLECT HIM IN WHOSE NAME WE GATHER.

YOU ARE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH OTHER MEMBERS TO SEE THAT THE WORSHIP AND WORK OF CHRIST ARE DONE IN THIS CONGREGATION, AND THAT GOD'S WILL IS DONE IN THIS COMMUNITY AND IN THE WHOLE WORLD. YOU ARE TO BE DILIGENT IN YOUR SPECIFIC AREA OF SERVING, THAT THE ONE LORD WHO EMPOWERS YOU IS GLORIFIED. YOU ARE TO BE EXAMPLES OF FAITH ACTIVE IN LOVE, TO HELP MAINTAIN THE LIFE AND HARMONY OF THIS CONGREGATION.

ON BEHALF OF YOUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN CHRIST, I ASK YOU: ARE YOU READY TO ACCEPT AND FAITHFULLY CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICES TO WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN ELECTED?

Yes, by the help of God.

I NOW DECLARE YOU INSTALLED OFFICERS/COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION. GOD BLESS YOU WITH HIS HOLY SPIRIT, THAT YOU MAY PROVE FAITHFUL SERVANTS OF CHRIST.

Amen.

* The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

* The Prayers of Intercession

EMPOWERED BY THE NEWS OF CHRIST'S BIRTH, LET US PRAY BOLDLY FOR THE CHURCH, CREATION, AND ALL WHO ARE IN NEED.

A brief silence.

O GOD, YOU REVEAL YOURSELF WHEREVER TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED IN YOUR NAME. BE WITH US NOW, NOT ONLY IN THE INFANT JESUS AND RESURRECTED CHRIST, BUT IN THE BELOVED PEOPLE OF THIS ASSEMBLY. HEAR US, O GOD.

Your mercy is great.

YOU REVEAL YOURSELF IN THE WATERS OF THE WOMB; IN BROOKS, PONDS, AND OCEANS; AND IN THE WATERS OF BAPTISM. GRANT US WISDOM TO TENDERLY CARE FOR THE EARTH AS A GARDEN WATERED BY YOUR GRACE. HEAR US, O GOD.

Your mercy is great.

YOU REVEAL YOURSELF IN BLESSED DIVERSITY. HELP US TO LOOK FOR YOU IN PEOPLE NEAR AND FAR, IN BODIES OF ALL KINDS, AND IN KINDRED YOUNG AND OLD. LET US SEEK YOU IN MANY PLACES, PRAISING YOU IN MANY TONGUES. HEAR US, O GOD.

Your mercy is great.

YOU REVEAL YOURSELF IN NEW LIFE. SUPPORT THOSE BEGINNING A NEW JOB, A NEW RELATIONSHIP, OR A NEW LIVING SITUATION, ESPECIALLY THOSE DISPLACED BECAUSE OF TRAGEDY OR LOSS. BE WITH ALL OTHERS WHO NEED YOUR LIFE-GIVING TOUCH THIS DAY ESPECIALLY PAM, BETTY, WALTER, FORREST, STEVE, CHRISTINE, EDDIE, GEORGE, JAN, AND ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND. HEAR US, O GOD.

Your mercy is great.

YOU REVEAL YOURSELF IN HOLY COMMUNION. SUSTAIN ALL WHO PROVIDE FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP IN THIS CONGREGATION AND IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY. MAKE OUR TABLES SIGNS OF YOUR WELCOMING PRESENCE AMONG US. HEAR US, O GOD.

Your mercy is great.

YOU PROMISE TO TURN MOURNING INTO JOY AND TO COMFORT THOSE WHO WEEP. WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND LOOK TO BEING UNITED WITH THEM IN YOUR GLORY. HEAR US, O GOD.

Your mercy is great.

GOD OF GRACE AND MERCY, (PLEASE SHARE ANY PERSONAL PRAYER PETITIONS) HEAR OUR PETITIONS THAT WE SPEAK OUT LOUD AND THE ONES THAT WE HOLD IN OUR HEARTS. HEAR US, O GOD,

Your mercy is great.

WITH THE JOY OF CHRIST'S BIRTH IN OUR HEARTS, WE COMMEND OUR PRAYERS TO YOU, O GOD, TRUSTING IN YOUR BOUNDLESS MERCY AND ETERNAL LOVE; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOR.

Amen.

*** The Peace of Christ**

THE PEACE OF THE LORD BE WITH YOU ALWAYS.

And also with you.

<p>~The Meal~</p>

The Offering and Offertory

Zion members, please use your envelopes for contributions so that your offering may be officially recorded. Please mail your envelopes to Zion Lutheran Church 101 N. Greenwood Street Tamaqua, PA 18252 or visit ziontamaqua.com for our Vanco option.

*** The Offertory Procession**

"What Child is This?"

No. 40 stanza 3

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;

Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

*** The Offertory Prayer**

LET US PRAY: GOD OF GLORY, GREAT ARE YOUR WONDERS AMONG US AND MANY ARE THE BLESSINGS YOU BESTOW. USE US AND THESE YOUR GIFTS FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD, THAT ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH MAY REJOICE IN YOUR SAVING GRACE, THROUGH CHRIST OUR SAVIOR.

Amen.

*** The Preface and Sanctus** *(music on page 68 of LBW)*

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

(Sung) **And also with you.**

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS.

We lift them to the Lord.

LET US GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD OUR GOD.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

IT IS INDEED RIGHT.....THEIR UNENDING HYMN: *(ELW No. 193)*

(Sung) **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:**

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

*** The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

HOLY ONE, THE BEGINNING AND THE END, THE GIVER OF LIFE: BLESSED ARE YOU FOR THE BIRTH OF CREATION...BLESSED ARE YOU FOR YOUR SON JESUS, THE WORD MADE FLESH.

IN THE NIGHT IN WHICH HE WAS BETRAYED, OUR LORD JESUS TOOK BREAD, AND GAVE THANKS...DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

AGAIN, AFTER SUPPER, HE TOOK THE CUP, GAVE THANKS...DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

LET US PROCLAIM THE MYSTERY OF FAITH:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

WITH THIS BREAD AND CUP WE REMEMBER YOUR WORD DWELLING AMONG US, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH. WE REMEMBER OUR NEW BIRTH IN HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION. WE LOOK WITH HOPE FOR HIS COMING.

Come, Lord Jesus.

HOLY GOD, WE LONG FOR YOUR SPIRIT. COME AMONG US. BLESS THIS MEAL. MAY YOUR WORD TAKE FLESH IN US. AWAKEN YOUR PEOPLE. FILL US WITH YOUR LIGHT. BRING THE GIFT OF PEACE ON EARTH.

Come Holy Spirit.

ALL PRAISE AND GLORY ARE YOURS, HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL, WORD OF GOD INCARNATE, POWER OF THE MOST HIGH, ONE GOD, NOW AND FOREVER.

Amen.

* **The Lord's Prayer**

JESUS, REMEMBER US IN YOUR KINGDOM; AND TEACH US TO PRAY:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

* **The Invitation to the Holy Meal**

GOD IS NOW IN FLESH APPEARING. COME TO THE FEAST OF JOY!

* **The Agnus Dei**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The Distribution

All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present in the Sacrament are welcome to commune when we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Zion members, please complete a Communion card once a year for our records.

* **The Post-Communion Blessing**

THE BODY AND BLOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST STRENGTHEN YOU AND KEEP YOU IN HIS GRACE.
Amen.

* **The Post Communion Canticle** *(music on page 72 of LBW)*

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

* **The Post Communion Prayer**

LET US PRAY: INCARNATE GOD, YOU ARE AMONG US AT THIS TABLE. MAY WE TREASURE THIS GIFT AND PONDER IN OUR HEARTS THE MYSTERY OF YOUR PRESENCE. MOVE US TO DISCOVER THE WONDERS OF YOUR LOVE IN THE EVERYDAY MOMENTS OF OUR LIVES, THROUGH CHRIST BORN IN US.

Amen.

The Senior Choir Anthem “Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head” – arr. Thygerson

~The Sending~

* The Benediction

THE TRIUNE GOD, GLORIOUS MYSTERY, HOLY INCARNATE ONE, ABIDING COMFORTER,
✠ BLESS YOU WITH ENDLESS GRACE, PEACE, AND JOY.

(Sung) Amen! Amen! Amen!

* The Dismissal

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!

And peace to God's people on earth!

GO IN JOY. EMBODY GOD'S REDEEMING GRACE.

Thanks be to God.

* The Sending Hymn

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

No. 55

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Liturgical material reprinted from: SUNDAYSANDSEASONS.COM Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24607. License sponsored July 2024 to July 2025 by Bill and Marianne Jones; In honor and memory of loved ones by Jon and Deb Davies and family; In honor of loved ones by Robert Fisher ONELICENSE #A-708066 (for sung portions of the liturgy not covered by the Augsburg Fortress License) sponsored in 2025 by Art and Sharon Connely, in loving memory of Arthur and Betty Connely

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14 – Not Printed

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14 – Not Printed

Gospel: John 1:1-18 - ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

January 11, 2026 readings are: Isaiah 42:1-9
Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 29
Matthew 3:13-17